

Pinckneyville Inside Out

Message From The President

The leaves are falling, kids are back in school, football is on the TV, hunting seasons are in and campaign signs are up. For me, these are a few of the signs that mark the coming of the Fall season. These events occur year after year as certain and reliable as the sun rises in the morning, and as consistently as the Pinckneyville Chamber of Commerce puts on the Halloween Mardi Gras Festival and Parade.

Yes, it is Mardi Gras time again here in Pinckneyville, and we are heavily involved in the work and planning necessary to pull it all off, again....for the 74th year since it began. Yes, it is the oldest continuous nighttime parade in the state of Illinois, and yes, it is Pinckneyville's largest two-day event, and yes, it is the county and region's biggest evening Halloween celebration, and yes....it's a whole lotta fun!

We, as a Chamber, have much to be proud of in the production of such an event. This event does require a great deal of work and planning by Chamber members, but it is always well worth the efforts put forth.

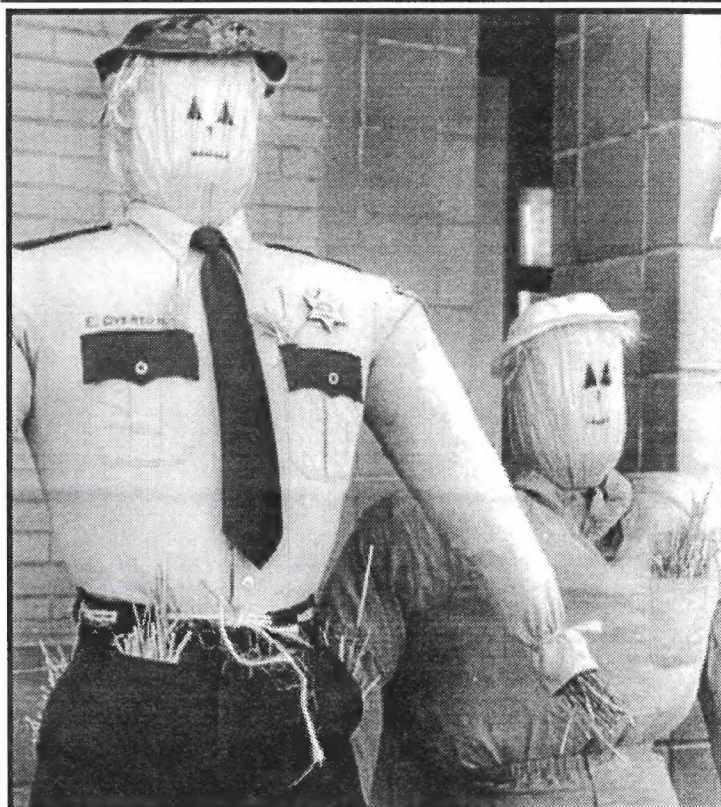
This year we urge all our Chamber members to take an active part in putting on this celebration....this celebration of Pinckneyville. Let us all be a part of what our parents and grandparents started many years ago. Let us be a part of the celebration of Pinckneyville.

Thank you,
Kevin Pyatt, President
Pinckneyville Chamber of Commerce

Pinckneyville Chamber of Commerce

October, 1996

Special Mardi Gras Edition



1995 Participants

1,000 More Scarecrows

The Town of 1,000 scarecrows contest is taking place again this year after almost meeting a fateful end. Luckily Kevin Place and Cheryl Bigham will be running the event. The contest will start on October 21 with scarecrows being judged on Thursday, October, 24. Judging will be done by an independent panel. To enter the competition businesses or individuals who are in the city limits or within one mile of the city limits need to notify the chamber office by October 22 so judges will know what locations to judge. Scarecrows will be judged on a scale of 1-10 in each of five categories: authenticity, originality, workmanship, if it is scary and if it is funny. Prizes are: First place \$50, Second place \$25, and Third place \$10.

Queen Pageant Center Of Mardi Gras

The Mardi Gras Queen contest is one of the most important events sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. It is through this event that both Mardi Gras is paid for and money is earned to operate the Chamber throughout the year.

The queen committee consists entirely of non-chamber members. Londa Campbell has chaired the committee for three years. Helping her on the committee are John Campbell, Roger Brand, Dawn McClay and Mr. and Mrs. David Logsdon.

The Candidates

There are seven candidates in the queen competition this year. All of the girls are either juniors or seniors at Pinckneyville Community High School.

The queen candidates are:

Ashlee Alaine Hagene is a junior and the daughter of John and Cindy Hagene of Pinckneyville. She is involved in volleyball, art club, FHA, band, flags and a member of St. Bruno's Church.

Casey Lynn Hawkins is a senior and the daughter of Martha Kliethermes of Tamaroa and Mike Hawkins of Pinckneyville. She is involved in pom-pons, flags, Lifesavers, ACTeens, band, is the football manager and works at McDonalds. She is a member of Beaucoup Baptist Church.

Angela Renee McCurdy is a senior and the daughter of Connie Rucks and Steve McCurdy. She is involved in chorus and will be the PCHS Calendar Girl for June. She is a member of Tamaroa Immaculate Conception Church.

Michelle Mitchell is a junior and the daughter of Jim and Dorothy Mitchell. She is involved in pom-pons, softball, band Music Makers, Pep club, flags, FHA and Lifesavers. She is a member of Roe's Dale Baptist Church.

Jill Ann Phillips is a senior and the daughter of Jim and Sandy Phillips of Pinckneyville. She is a member of the 1995 and 1996 Illinois Baptist Association Youth Choir and the Oak Grove Baptist Church.

Jamie Suzanne Saunders is a senior and the daughter of Robert and Cathy Saunders of Tamaroa.

Lacy Ellen Woodside is a senior and the daughter

of Mike and Marilyn Woodside. She has been a member of the junior Class Congress, band, a Calendar Girl and has been named Who's Who Among American High School Students three years. She is a member of Music Makers where she is president and co-choreographer. Woodside is also a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Du Quoin.

Important Dates

Important dates for Chamber members to help and get involved with the queen contest are October 5, 19 and 25.

On **October 5** the queen candidates will be **collecting on the square** for the scholarship fund. Chamber members are asked to support the candidates by coming and joining them on the square and helping them to collect donations. Spend as much time as you like, even spend the whole morning.

On **October 19** the **Queen Scholarship Gala** will be held at the Perry County Country Club. This event solely goes to support the scholarship fund. The event will begin at 8 p.m. and lasts until midnight. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and a cash bar is available. A 50/50 drawing will be held and SIU basketball season tickets and a Southern Illinois artist's wildlife print will be raffled. **All donations will go directly toward the queen scholarship fund.**

Donations are still being sought for an attendance prize to be given away at the Gala. Suggestions for the prize have been a kitchen size television, but is not limited to that. Anyone who is interested in donating an attendance prize needs to call the Chamber office to report the item they are willing to donate.

The **queen coronation** will be held on Friday, **October 25** at 6 p.m. in the Grade School gymnasium.

Raffle ticket winners will be announced and the District 50 Special Chorus will provide entertainment. Col. Pinckney and his Footmen will also make an appearance.

By giving your support at these events, as well as when you see them in town or when they knock on your door selling tickets, you show the candidates that you appreciate the work they do to keep the Mardi Gras celebration alive.



Pictured from left: (front row) Jill Phillips, Ashlee Hagene and Casey Hawkins, (back row) Lacy Woodside, Angela McCurdy, Jamie Saunders and Michelle Mitchell.

Genie's Selling The Tickets

Ticket sales on the computer raffle were going slowly until super saleswoman GENIE WILCOX got a hold of some of the tickets.

GENIE has already personally sold 130 books of tickets (780 tickets) by the time we go to print.

All Chamber members need to put forth the this same effort and get busy selling these raffle tickets. The raffle is an extra fund-raiser we are having this year to cover expenses of the Chamber and may not necessarily be used to pay for Mardi Gras.

Ken Mathis at First

National Bank is in charge and he has the tickets.

The Chamber will also try to sell these raffle tickets during other events including the field show competition where Loretta Auld will have a table set up and at the K of C Hall Friday night thanks to Genie Wilcox. We need some to help with Saturday.

Also Genie Wilcox and Ken Mathis will be selling tickets at the University Mall Bazaar on Saturday, September 28. Others are welcome to help.

Junior High Joins The Fun

Approximately 24 seventh and eighth grade students from the Junior High will be painting decorations to be placed in downtown store windows.

The art classes of Mrs. Marilyn Weinacht began the project during the week of September 24 and completed designs are to be turned into the Chamber by October 22.

Each individual student will be doing pictures along the theme, "A World of Harmony." Chamber Secretary Pat Perkins helped arrange the decorations with Mrs. Weinacht. There will be a contest for these students with the Top 3 winning a Mardi Gras T-shirt.

HELP NEEDED: Window washers will be needed to help wash the outsides of the windows that need to be cleaned. To volunteer, contact Pat Perkins at 357-9393.

Mardi Gras '96 T-Shirts To Be Printed And Sold

Silkworm, Inc. has designed Mardi Gras T-shirts and sweatshirts for this year's event.

Craig Williams is coordinating the effort and working with Brian Black of Silkworm to develop the design. The design will promote Pinckneyville as well as Mardi Gras in full color.

T-shirts will sell for \$12 and sweatshirts for \$20. The Chamber will receive \$2.50 for each shirt sold.

The deal works like this: Silkworm is printing transfers which will be applied to

the shirts as they are purchased. Silkworm assumes all the risk of cost and the Chamber benefits. This is the type of sponsorship Karen discussed in her column.

The shirts will be available during the flea market and craft fair on Saturday and Friday night at the Chamber office.

Members may promote sales by purchasing early and wearing their shirts. Make orders at the office. Transfers are available after October 12.

Mardi Gras Parade To Be Lead By 'The Duchess' Virginia Marmaduke

The 74th Annual Mardi Gras Parade, the grandest event of the celebration kicks off at 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 26.

The parade's Grand Marshall is The Duchess herself, Virginia Marmaduke. The theme is "A World of Harmony."

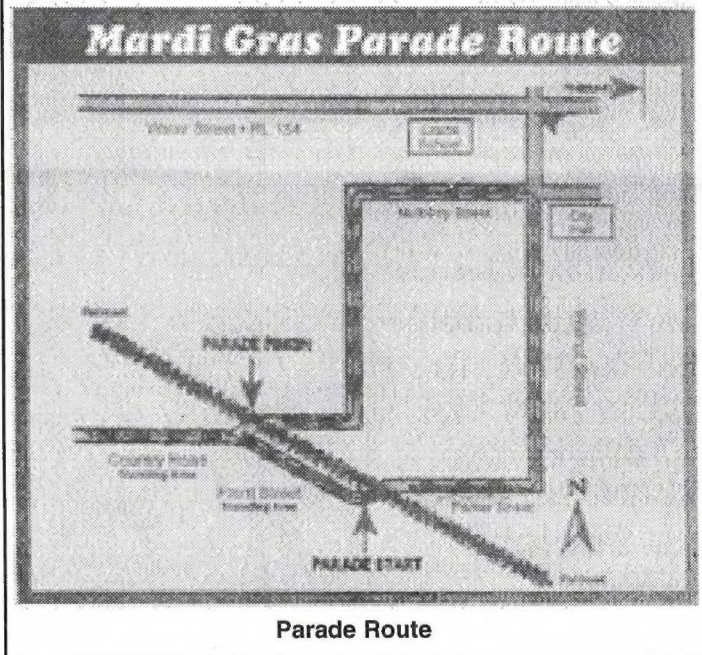
So far 15 bands will participate in the parade. Floats will be judges in the staging area before the parade by six students from the SIU Art Department.

Dick Pyatt is in charge of getting all the volunteer help for the parade — about 60 people are needed for marshaling. In pre-

vious years, the high school cheerleaders, FFA and National Honor Society have been a part of the help.

Other parade committee members are Kevin Pyatt, Roger Brand, Debbie Blair, Paul Pyatt and Steve Cannedy.

The parade will follow its traditional route running from the railroad tracks east on Parker St. to Walnut St., head north on Walnut to Mulberry St., goes west on Mulberry past the grade school and then south on Mill St. to west on Kaskaskia St., ending at the railroad tracks.



Spook Walk Again Open

The historic Old Perry County Jail will again be opened as a Spook Walk, with tours starting in the Jail Museum basement. The Jail Museum Committee is sponsoring the event.

The Spook Walk will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, October 25.

Participating members include Henry & Trudy Rabe, Eunice Ritter, Bob & Delores Mann, Timpner family members: Bill & Helen Timpner and Nancy Timpner, Donna & Tiffany Vuichard, Jim Liipe, Edwin Schrader, Lance Feik, and George Ranta.

A donation of 50 cents per person will be collected at the door.



Going For The Gold

Sack Races Set For 10 a.m.

The popular money Scramble and sack races will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 26 on the Courthouse lawn.

There will be two money scrambles for ages four and under and for ages five to seven-years-old.

Sack races will be held in five different categories ranging from youngsters to those who should know better.

Ages Include eight and nine; 10 and 11; 12 and 13; 14 to 18; and 19 and over.

The activities are sponsored by Murphy-Wall State Bank and there is no charge to the public.

Volunteers helping include: Claudia Choate, Joan Weisel, Deborah Davis, Janet Blakely, Beverly Wilks, Meschelle Brand, Susan Thompson, and Caroyln Hutchings.

Are There Any Basketball Players In Pinckneyville?

CALLING ALL HOOPSTERS: The 3-point Basketball Shootout will take place at a new time this year.

The shootout will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 26 at the First National Bank. The contest will include different age groups and will be determined by the most 3-point shots made in a set amount of time.

Kent Epplin, Staci Starkweather, Thorn Keene and James Wittenauer are organizing the event.

Scott Lindners of Pinckneyville McDonald's has donated a prize to every entrant. The Chamber will award Mardi Gras T-shirts to top winners.

Entry fees is \$1 per person.

IMPORTANT REQUEST: The Chamber needs to find a portable basketball goal to be used at the event. Please contact Karen at the Chamber Office if anyone knows where we can get a portable goal.

What Else Is Going On Mardi Gras Weekend?

FALL CLASSIC

The Pinckneyville Fall Classic is set to be run during Mardi Gras festivities on Saturday, October 26.

Runners in the 8K and One Mile Races will meet at the Perry County Fairgrounds at 9 a.m.

The event will be sponsored by the local Pyramid Running Club and is being timed by the River to River Running Club. Local contact in David Bond.

An entry fee of \$10 has been established for the 8K and the one mile fitness run is free.

A T-shirt is guaranteed to the first 75 entrants. Trophies will be given to the top three finishers in each group.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

For a good meal to energize you before the flea market, stop by the Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast. Ken Wilde is the new president and he can be contacted at 357-9025.

ANTIQUÉ AUTO DISPLAY

The Egyptian Antiqué Auto Club is busy getting cars together for the show on the south lawn of the courthouse from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 26.

For more information, contact Joe and Mary Mann at 357-8168.

FIELD COMPETITION

So far, seven bands have entered the marching band field competition, which will take place at 2 p.m. October 26.

Director Steve Cannedy and the Band Parents Organization have been working hard on the project and the event and the musical portion of the parade should be a big hit.

Flea Market Big Draw To Mardi Gras Event

The Flea market/craft fair is well underway with most of the booth space already filled. Toni Engelhardt and Debbie Weber are in charge of the event and have already collected \$2000. Help is needed on the day of the event to help direct vendors to their spots. Two volunteers need to report to the Flower Patch at 6 a.m. on Saturday, October 26. Pinckneyville Police officers on the early shift will put up the barricades for the streets. Vendors are coming to this event from Mayfield, Kent., all over Southern Illinois, Northern Illinois and Indiana.

Sanctioned Pumkin Hurl

This reporter has learned that criteria are being developed to sanction the Great Pumpkin Hurl this year. Chair person, Craig Williams, alluded to the 'official scale' being used by the judge-in-attendance, James Wittenauer. Other than weight, height and arm span may also be measured. Pumpkins may be chosen to fit with these measurements.

Since word has been received by the office that a political candidate/s may be in the contest, a special competition is being developed exclusively for them. BEWARE, politicians, your measurements will be announced to the crowd. Pumpkins of commensurate weight and/or shape will be presented to you for throwing. This will enable the voters to fairly judge

the candidate's fitness, form and ability to enact legislation with the greatest SPLAT.

So, come on out to the Great Pumpkin Hurl to be held by the First National Bank at 1 PM this year. Cost is \$1 per entry, with certificates provided by McDonald's of Pinckneyville to all entrants. Winners of the longest distance and greatest splat will receive 196 Mardi Gras T-shirts. Great fun will be in store for all with the 'sanctioning' of the Great Pumpkin Hurl!

(This reporter reserves the right to have printed fictitious and/or erroneous information. The chair person may change the criteria without written notification prior to the event on Oct. 26.

K of C Plans Harvest Moon Roast

The Knights of Columbus Harvest Moon Roast and Dances will be held during Mardi Gras weekend. All activities will take place at the K of C Hall and parking lot.

Proceeds will go towards Activity Program for Handicapped Citizens of Perry County.

The K of C will be sell-

ing barbecue sandwiches and ribs both days starting at 10 a.m.

The Barbecue Contest draws a great crowd into the City, including some who might not normally come for the craft fair or flea market.

Charlie Hagene at 357-6421 is organizing the event.



A woman observes crafts during last year's Mardi Gras

Events Being Scheduled For Firehouse Activities

Acts are beginning to be scheduled for the Firehouse Activities on Saturday. Events will include the Precious Pumpkin Contest and Town of a 1,000 Scarecrow winners being announced, Michelle Todd, Seymour and B.J. will perform as well as Katie Kerkhover and Rockwood Junction and Angie Hoffman. Events will be held on the 1/2 hour to stagger events throughout the day. More events are still needed. Ramona Hatch and Toni Engelhardt are in charge of the activities.

Harvest Moon Roast Schedule

Friday, October 25

10 a.m. Barbecue teams start cooking.

8 p.m. Harvest Moon Dance. Band: Cuttin' Loose.

8 p.m. Bloody Mary Contest.

9 p.m. Costume Contest.

9 p.m. Hog Calling Contest.

Saturday, October 26

10 a.m. Sanctioned judging of barbecue cookoff.

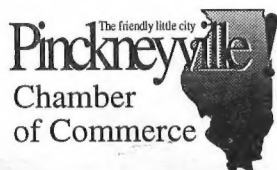
2 p.m. Final judging.

9 p.m. Dance. Band: Cuttin' Loose.

Karen's Clearinghouse

It has been quite some time since our first newsletter came out, so I thought I would give you an inside look, out to the members of our organization of what is happening in terms of the newsletter, and my opinions of Mardi Gras. Early in the year Craig Williams was in transition from being a partner of Buenerkemper & Howe to establishing his solely owned company, Craig Williams Creative. The business took off rapidly, leaving little time to publish the Chamber newsletter. About a month ago, Kathleen Beattie stopped by the office and asked about the newsletter. So knowing that Craig did not have time, I asked her if she would like to help with it. The proposal was that the Publicity Committee (chaired by myself) would produce the newsletter. So, I am gathering the information, Kathleen Beattie and Dennis Lamczik are writing and laying-out this newsletter. Doris Hottes, another member of the Publicity Committee, at this time will be helping me to lay out an ad for Mardi Gras which will be placed in area newspapers. Doris will be doing some writing for future issues of the newsletter as well Kevin Place, the last member of the committee.

Craig, THANK YOU for starting the year off right with the first newsletter. We needed a newsletter, and your efforts are very much appreciated. We also thank you for the floppies with the masthead and other computer set-up which we are now being able to use on the computers at the Du Quoin



P.O. BOX 183
PINCKNEYVILLE, IL 62274

Address Correction Requested

Evening Call office. Steve Fisher, thank you for allowing Kathleen and Dennis to do the work at "the Call" office after hours. And lastly, thank you to the Pinckneyville Chamber members for being patient through this transition.

The intent of this newsletter is an INSIDE/OUT look at Mardi Gras. The INSIDE look at all the work, people and businesses that are involved in Mardi Gras—OUT to the members of our organization—I call this "in-house advertising" The final organization and volunteer recruitment are not in place for all of the events, so I apologize that not all of the volunteer workers are going to be thanked by name in this newsletter. My dream for next year, is that all the volunteer workers names will be known by this time and highlighted in the Mardi Gras newsletter.

I attended an Event Workshop last fall, right after Mardi Gras, and would like to share some of the ideas presented at that workshop. Right now, the Mardi Gras is essentially a volunteer-run event with the Chamber of Commerce funding it. The Event Workshop stressed the business side of events in securing sponsorships to fund an event rather than using their own funds. This enables the sponsoring organization to make more money from their event. The other businesses that sponsor part/s of the event receive free advertising of their sponsorship and promotion of their business. The Board of Directors and the Mardi Gras Committee are trying to move in this direction, and this newsletter is an attempt at providing advertising to those individuals, organizations and businesses who are contributing to Mardi Gras this year. Volunteer help is still needed, so please save us some time by picking up the phone and calling to volunteer your time.

With your efforts, we can present the INSIDE goodwill image that we know is here in Pinckneyville, OUT to our 10,000 visitors that come to the Mardi Gras Celebration every year.



Ark Land Co.
Genie Wilcox
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Pinckneyville, IL 62274-